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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/756,805	01/09/2001	Satoru Kikugawa	74457/08126	6166

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EXAMINER

SHINGLES, KRISTIE D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2141

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/756,805

Applicant(s)

KIKUGAWA, SATORU

Examiner

Kristie Shingles

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5,6,8,9,11 and 12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1,4,7 and 10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5,6,8,9,11 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 February 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/01-5/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant has amended claims 2, 5 and 11.

Claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 are cancelled.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12 are still pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on 5/31/2001, 6/13/2003 and 5/19/2004 are in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statements are being considered by the Office. Initialed and dated copy of Applicant's IDS 1449 forms, are attached to the instant Office action.
2. The information disclosure statement filed 2/11/2005 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1), which requires the following: (1) a list of all patents, publications, applications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office; (2) U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications listed in a section separately from citations of other documents; (3) the application number of the application in which the information disclosure statement is being submitted on each page of the list; (4) a column that provides a blank space next to each document to be considered, for the examiner's initials; and (5) a heading that clearly indicates that the list is an information disclosure statement. The information disclosure statement has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Drawings

3. The proposed drawing corrections filed 2/11/2005 have been accepted by the Examiner. The corrections to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

4. The proposed specification corrections filed 2/11/2005 have been accepted by the Examiner. The corrections to the specification will not be held in abeyance.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments, see pages 9-11, filed on February 11, 2005 with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 2, 5, 8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C 102(b) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of *Uchino et al* (USPN 6,865,715).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims **2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Uchino et al* (USPN 6,865,715).

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a. **Per claim 2, *Uchino et al* teach an electronic bulletin board system including a server computer with an electronic bulletin board function communicating with at least one user computer via a network for mediating information exchange therebetween, said server computer comprising:**

- **a first database as a notable words collection storing a plurality of words that are appropriately selected (col.2 lines 20-39, col.3 lines 32-56, col.6 lines 32-52, col.7 line 57-col.8 line16; keyword extraction device and summation device);**
- **a second database storing a plurality of records with text data (col.7 lines 3-9 and col.20 lines 46-63; document group database and secondary storage device);**
- **a logic device inspecting a message text sent from a user computer of a person who wants to post a message by consulting the notable words collection (col.7 line 65-col.8 line 42, col.11 line 59-col.12 line 60, col.13 lines 36-48 and col.19 lines 44-62; provision for analysis unit to detect and extract keywords from messages),**
- **wherein the message text is posted on the bulletin board when the message text does not include a notable word in the notable words collection (col.8 line 63-col.10 line 40 and col.11 line 11-col.12 line 25; if message does not include a keyword that is in database, it is added and message continues procession onto the bulletin board);**
- **the second database is searched by using the notable word as a keyword when the message text includes a notable word in the notable words collection, and if the record including the notable word does not exist in the database, the message text is posted on the bulletin board (col.7 line 3-col.8 line 36, col.11 lines 17-58, col.15 line 48-col.16 line 8 and col.18 lines 49-67; searches database for the extracted word, if word is not in database, it is added and message continues procession onto the bulletin board);**
- **when the record including the notable word exists as a result of searching the second database, the word in the message text is converted into a hypertext format having a URL generated properly to which the word is linked as a link destination, and the message text is posted on the bulletin board, the URL being so described as to constitute a start instruction to a search report program, which reports a result of searching the second database by using the notable word as a keyword (col.1 lines 32-58, col.12 line 18-col.13 line 59, col.14 line 58-col.15 line 17 and col.16 line 5-67; keywords are converted into HTML for linking**

other related document threads by the URL, which will display the results and threads of the other bulletin board messages with the keyword), and

- **when the URL is sent from a specific user computer, the search report program is executed to return a set of report screen data of the search result to the specific user computer (col.6 lines 30-64, col.12 lines 27-51, col.13 lines 36-48, col.16 lines 60-67, col.17 lines 6-28, col.18 line 58-col.19 line 62, col.21 lines 8-11; HTML document report displays of keyword view, thread view or author view of search results).**

b. **Claims 5, 8 and 11** contain limitations that are substantially equivalent to claim 2 and are therefore rejected under the same basis.

c. **Per claim 3, Uchino et al** teach the electronic bulletin board system according to claim 2, wherein each record stored in the second database is linked with a corresponding URL, and the search report program generates a set of screen data including a hypertext having the URL to which the obtained record is linked as a link destination (**col.1 lines 55-58, col.3 lines 45-56, col.12 line 41-col.13 line 35, col.15 lines 3-29 and col.16 lines 60-67**).

d. **Claims 6, 9 and 12** are substantially equivalent to claim 3 and are therefore rejected under the same basis.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a. *Knight et al* (USPN 6,571,234) disclose a system and method for managing online message board.
- b. *Smith et al* (USPN 6,594,673) disclose visualizations for collaborative information.
- c. *Gage et al* (USPN 5,923,846) disclose a method of uploading a message containing a file reference to a server and downloading a file from the server using the file reference.

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- d. *Armstrong* (USPN 6,356,633) discloses an electronic mail message processing and routing for call center response to same.
- e. *Eichstaedt et al* (USPN 6,654,735) disclose outbound information analysis for generating user interest profiles and improving user productivity.
- f. *Tabb et al* (USPN 5,787,416) disclose methods for hypertext reporting in a relational database management system.
- g. *Borman et al* (USPN 6,226,655) disclose a method and apparatus for retrieving data from a network using linked location identifiers.
- h. *Anthony* (USPN 5,815,830) discloses automatic generation of hypertext links to multimedia topic objects.
- i. *Rubinstein et al* (USPN 5,913,215) disclose browsing by prompted keyword phrases with an improved method for obtaining an initial document set.


9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kristie Shingles whose telephone number is 571-272-3888. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on 571-272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kristie Shingles
Examiner
Art Unit 2141

kds



RUPAL DHARIA
SUPERVISOR, PATENT EXAMINER